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Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
601 D Street N.W. - Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Renata Hesse:

I am a strong supporter of the use of information technologies as a major resource of developing the economy of South Dakota. Efforts achieved in the state's Wiring the Schools Program and long distance learning systems will reap huge dividends as the so-called digital divide is erased between urban America and rural states. The allocation of computers and backup support which is expected from the settlement proposal in the antitrust case, U.S. v. Microsoft, offers another leap forward because those systems are targeted for use by low income school districts. South Dakota has many of those districts which should qualify for the computer systems.

That is one reason I support the settlement.

The other speaks to how the justice system is used to pursue justice. This antitrust case was established to explore Microsoft Corporation's practices as they relate to its competition. It has not established any harm to consumers, which should be a strong consideration in the value of this settlement. From what I have been able to read and understand, the settlement adequately addresses the issues which have remained viable throughout the court process. I think this case has reached the point when it is time to say enough is enough; it's no longer necessary to keep this court action going.

I think justice has been pursued, and the pursuit has not wandered outside the lines of what is a proper action by the courts. My hope is that this process is not allowed to wander outside the lines by rejecting the settlement. Thank you.

With best regards,



Phil Hanson